

Message Text

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72

ACTION AID-59

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 EUR-25 ISO-00 IO-14 PC-10 AGR-20 EB-11

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FM AMEMBASSY NIAMEY

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6999

INFO AMEMBSSY ABIDJAN

AMEMBASSY BAMAKO

AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY DAKAR

AMEMBASSY NDJAMENA

AMEMBASSY NOUAKCHOTT

AMEMBASSY OTTAWA

AMEMBASSY OUAGADOUGOU

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY ROME

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UNCLAS NIAMEY 197

AFDROUGHT

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EAID, NG

SUBJECT: NIGER DROUGHT NEEDS

REF: (A) NIAMEY 165; (B) STATE 6850; (C) STATE 10970

1. MINISTER OF DEVELOPMENT AND COOPERATION BEMBELLO CONVENED
DONOR MEETING JANUARY 15 OF CHIEFS OF MISSIONS, AID REPRESENTATIVES
AND DIRECTORS OF MINISTRIES WORKING ON DROUGHT PROBLEMS.

BEMBELLO EXPRESSED THANKS TO DONORS FOR HELP RENDERED THUS
FAR, BUT EXPRESSED CONCERN THAT NIGER'S PRESSING FOOD, TRANSPORT
AND MEDICAL NEEDS RESULTING FROM DROUGHT ARE NOT BEING

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ADEQUATELY MET.

2. BEMBELLO AND DIRECTORS GAVE FOLLOWING RUNDOWN OF IMMEDIATE NEEDS. HUMAN FOOD REQUIREMENTS REMAIN ESSENTIALLY AS FORMULATED IN FAO/DONOR REPORT. BEMBELLO, HOWEVER, CALLED SPECIAL ATTENTION TO ACUTE NEED FOR 30,000 TONS OF GRAIN FOR "FLOATING POPULATION" SINCE NUMBER OF REFUGEES IN COUNTRY FROM OUTSIDE NIGER HAS INCREASED SINCE TIME OF DONOR VISIT. ALSO THERE ARE THOUSANDS OF NOMADS (FULANIS, TUAREGS, HAUSAS) CONGREGATING IN CAMPS IN SOUTHERN AREAS OF COUNTRY WHO ARE NOW FULLY DEPENDENT ON GON FOR FOOD ALTHOUGH THEY HAD MANAGED TO GET THROUGH LAST SEASON WITH MINIMAL HELP. (THESE ARE IN ADDITION TO SOME 70,000 TUAREGS AROUND AGADEZ WHO HAVE BEEN ON RELIEF FOR OVER YEAR.) REQUEST FOR RESERVE STOCK OF 50,000 TONS WAS ALSO MENTIONED. IN FIELD OF ANIMAL NUTRITION AND HEALTH ABOUT 19,000 TONS FEED GRAIN PLUS SALT LICKS AND CALF STARTER MUST BE OBTAINED AS SUPPLEMENT TO NATURAL GRAZING. FOR NEXT YEAR'S PEANUT CROP (NIGER'S MAIN EXPORT EARNER) SOME 11,000 TONS OF SEEDS HAVE TO BE PURCHASED OUTSIDE OF COUNTRY (PROBABLY FROM SENEGAL) AND FINANCING WILL BE REQUIRED. ALSO SOME 7,000 TONS OF FERTILIZER WILL HAVE TO BE IMPORTED. IN HUMAN HEALTH SECTOR, THERE HAVE BEEN RECENT WIDESPREAD OUTBREAKS OF FLUN MENINGITIS AND PNEUMONIA AMONG NOMADS ALREADY WEAKENED BY PROLONGED DEPRIVATION THUS PRODUCING HIGH FATALITY RATE. MINISTRY OF HEALTH HANDICAPPED BY LACK OF MEDICINES AND MEANS OF TRANSPORT (THIRD OF MINISTRY VEHICLES DEADLINED). DIRECTOR MINISTRY OF HEALTH STATED THERE URGENT NEED DRIED MILK AND CSM..

3. BEMBELLO ALSO MADE APPEAL FOR TRUCKS FOR INTERNAL TRANSPORT. ACCORDING TO FAO/DONORS REPORT 30 ADDITIONAL VEHICLES OF AVERAGE 8-TON CAPACITY WILL BE REQUIRED. SO FAR 21 HAVE BEEN PROMISED (17 FED AND 4 CANADA) BUT ONLY FOUR HAVE ARRIVED THUS FAR IN COUNTRY. REMAINDER NOT EXPECTED UNTIL MAY.

4. BEMBELLO AND CHIEF OF METEOROLOGICAL SERVICE DIALLO DISCUSSED NIGER CLOUD SEEDING PROGRAM AND REQUESTED DONOR ASSISTANCE (NIAMEY 165).

5. MAJOR DONORS IN TURN GAVE STATUS REPORTS THEIR FOOD
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CONTRIBUTIONS.

| | REQUESTED | APPROVED | ARRIVED |
|-----|----------------|----------|---------|
| FED | 30,000 MT CORN | 20,000 | |
| | 5,000 MT RICE | 0 | |
| | 5,000 MT FLOUR | 0 | |
| | 10,000 MT MILK | 3,200 | |

FRANCE 10,000 MT SORGHUM 10,000 5,000
 5,000 MT WHEAT 0
 1,000 MT FLOUR 0
 2,000 MT BUTTER 0
 FRG 10,000 MT CEREALS 1 MILLION DM TO
 MM GON TO PURCHASE LOCALLY
 OR IN NEIGHBORING COUNTRIES.
 3,000 MT FLOUR 0
 2,000 MT RICE 0

CANADA 10,000 MT CEREALS \$2 MILLION ALLOCATED FOR
 FOOD PURCHASES.
 UN/FAO 15,000 MT SORGHUM 0

UNICEF 3,500 MT CSM 800 400
 USSR 2,500 MT RICE 2,500
 USA 100,000 MT SORGHUM 67,500 22,000
 10,000 MT CORN 0
 4,000 MT CSM 0

6. FROM FOREGOING IT CLEAR THAT FOOD MGWVLTTEN SLOW AND THAT FOOD DELIVERIES TO NIGER ARE FAR BEHIND SCHEDULE. THERE ARE ALREADY SHORTAGES IN SOME AREAS AND UNLESS SHIPMENTS ARE ACCELERATED SIGNIFICANTLY, SITUATION WILL BECOME CRITICAL BY APRIL. GON WITH DONOR ASSISTANCE HAS DONE EXCELLENT JOB TO IMPROVE TRANSPORT AND STORAGE INFRASTRUCTURE. IN THIS CONJUNCTION GOVERNMENT ACCORDINGLY PLANNED TO PREPOSITION 40,000 TONS CEREALS DURING DECEMBER-APRIL PERIODS IN AREAS WHICH WILL BE INACCESSIBLE DURING RAINY SEASON AND THUS OBVIATE TORTUOUS GROUND TRANSPORT OR COSTLY AIRLIFT. BECAUSE OF DELAYS IN SHIPMENTS, HOWEVER, PLAN HAS HAD TO BE SUBSTANTIALLY DIMINISHED SINCE MOST INCOMING GRAIN NEEDED FOR IMMEDIATE CONSUMPTION THROUGHOUT

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COUNTRY. ACCORDINGLY NEED FOR AIRLIFT TO ISOLATED AREAS DURING JULY-SEPTEMBER PERIOD ONCE AGAIN STRONG POSSIBILITY.

7. WE GREATLY APPRECIATE PRIORITY GIVEN TO ACCELERATE DELIVERY OF GRAIN FROM 45,000 MT ALLOCATION (STATE 6850). WE URGE THAT SUCH EFFORTS CONTINUE. IN PARTICULAR WE WOULD LIKE TO SEE INCREASE IN SCHEDULED APRIL DELIVERIES WHICH WE CALCULATE AT AROUND 7,000 TONS. WELCOME APPROVAL ADDITIONAL 100,000 MT SORGHUM FOR SAHEL (STATE 10970) AND AGAIN REQUEST THAT 35,000 MT FOR NIGER BE AUTHORIZED SOONEST. BUCHE

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